

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for treating an atopic condition, comprising  
administering to a subject in need of treatment of an atopic condition an  
5 immunostimulatory nucleic acid, comprising:  
$$5' X_1 CGX_2 3'$$
  
wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid includes at least 8 nucleotides and wherein C is  
unmethylated and wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are nucleotides, in an effective amount to treat the  
atopic condition.  
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the atopic condition is atopic dermatitis.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein  $X_1$  is selected from the group consisting of A, G,  
and T, and wherein  $X_2$  is selected from the group consisting of C and T.  
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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen  
in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory nucleic acid.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises  
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$$5' X_1 X_2 CGX_3 X_4 3'$$
  
wherein C is unmethylated and wherein  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ ,  $X_3$ , and  $X_4$  are nucleotides.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein  $X_1 X_2$  is selected from the group consisting of GpT,  
GpG, GpA and ApA.  
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7. The method of claim 5, wherein  $X_3 X_4$  is selected from the group consisting of TpT  
and CpT.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein  $X_1 X_2$  is selected from the group consisting of GpT,  
GpG, GpA and ApA and wherein  $X_3 X_4$  is selected from the group consisting of TpT and  
CpT.  
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9. The method of claim 5, wherein  $5' X_1 X_2 CGX_3 X_4 3'$  is not a palindrome.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of  
TCCATGTCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:37),  
5 TCCATGCCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:38),  
TCCATGGCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:39),  
TCCATGACGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:40),  
TCCATGTCGCTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:42),  
TCCATGTCGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:43),  
10 TCCATGACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:44), and  
TCCATAACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:45).
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.
- 15 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides in length.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is 8 to 40  
20 nucleotides in length.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.
- 25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered  
30 to the subject orally.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered to the subject transdermally.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered  
5 to the subject by injection.